

# Frontier Forts

## Pocahontas County Rich In Historical Localities

The old forts used in Indian time as shown by records and tradition in territory now comprising Pocahontas were as follows:

**Fort Burnside**—On Greenbrier River. Location not definitely known. Supposed to be near the station Burnside on the Greenbrier division of the C&O Railway.

**Fort Clover Lick**—On Clover Creek about one and a half miles from its mouth, near the north fork of the creek, and about 300 yards from the residence of the late C. P. Dorr.

**Fort Drennen**—West of the public road, about 300 yards, in an old orchard, at the foot of Elk Mountain, half a mile northwest of Edray.

**Fort Buckley**—At Mill Point on the site of the home of Isaac McNeel, on the northern bank of Stamping Creek about one and one half miles from Greenbrier River. Sometimes called Fort Day or Fort Price.

**Fort Warwick**—Located on Deer Creek about three miles from its mouth and about four miles from Cass. This Fort was near the home of Peter H. Warwick.

There was also an old fort near Green Bank on land formerly owned by James Wooddell and now owned by Henry Wooddell. The name of this fort is not known. The old building was still standing a few years ago and may still be there.

There was also an old fort on Greenbrier River near the mouth of Stony Creek on the Levi Gay Farm, now owned by Pat Gay. It was at this place Baker was killed by the Indians. Richard Hill, the ancestor of all the Hills in the Levels, and Baker in the early morning went to the river to wash for breakfast, when the Indians fired on them killing Baker but Hill escaped to the fort. The alarm was given that Indians were in the country and about twenty men came from the Levels but no trace could be found and upon their return to the

Levels, the Bridger boys left the main party and took a near cut and were killed in the low place on the mountain now owned by W. H. Auldridge where they were waylaid and killed by Indians.

Previous to the time of the forts named above, General Andrew Lewis, acting on instructions from the Governor of Virginia, in the year of 1755, established a fort known as Fort Greenbrier on the land that he had prior to that time surveyed at the mouth of Knapps Creek on the Greenbrier River. The river had been named in 1751, and this is demonstrated by the order to establish the fort at Greenbrier. This fort stood about where the Court House stands now. General Lewis was at this place when he marched his company to join Braddock. He was in the disastrous battle near Pittsburgh where Braddock was slain and left 800 men dead on the field. These bodies were not buried, until their bones were collected years after. It is probably the most savage occurrence in the history of the English race.

The work has begun to preserve the traditions of our ancestors. Every native born should see to it that the memory of our forefathers is not to perish from the earth. In the early history of Virginia, these men stood like a living wall between the savages of the west and the happy colonial homes of Virginia. And the line was never broken in the seventy odd miles of the frontier represented by the bounds of Pocahontas County.

The blood still runs in our veins. We hope and believe that it is the same heroic blood and that it will endure the test when it comes, as it most surely will. In the meantime, the least that we can do is to keep green the memory of the pioneers.

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## POCAHONTAS COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

These few pages and the reprints from the Pocahontas Times and articles sent by friends interested in our counties history and our people over these two hundred years, though not written in any special style.

To Louise McNeill Pease our counties most famous poet I owe the insperation and urge to spend many long hours and trial and error to get these few articles bound together although not in any uniform order either in space or years. This work should be dedicated to many people of Pocahontas, but looking back to 1910 to the present I must give credit to those who sent articles and their names are contained in their events and lines or stories given me. To cover everyone would take too much space so for space I add the following, which should be in first book.

This work I hereby dedicate to the following men, who in my younger years played such a lasting impression on my life. To my friends and life long advisors:-

I DEDICATE THIS PAPER

Mr. G.D. McNeill.  
Mr. C.W. Price.  
Mr. C.E. Denison.

/s/ Glen L. Vaughan